

85/11/14
HUNTINGDONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICER

upon the

HEALTH AND SANITARY
CONDITION

of the

COUNTY OF HUNTINGDON

For the Year 1953



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HUNTINGDONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Members of the Health Committee

Chairman :

COUNTY ALDERMAN W. BROWN

Vice-Chairman :

COUNTY COUNCILLOR LADY D. SHEPPERSON

County Aldermen :

M. J. Allen
C. G. Argles
A Crane

R. L. Farley
F. W. Figg
G. P. Radford

County Councillors :

Mrs. M. K. Abrahams
W. P. Anderson
B. S. Bye
C. H. Chandler
C. M. J. Coote
G. A. Earl
Mrs. S. Evans
Rev. E. I. Evans
G. E. Fuller

W. H. Gotobed
Lord Hemingford
E. G. Holmes
T. E. R. Parsons
H. J. Poulter
F. C. Slaughter
Rev. M. H. Wells
H. Wicks
C. J. Wiles

Co-opted Members :

Mrs. D. R. Allan
Mrs. V. E. Compton
Dr. E. R. Dansie
Mrs. D. J. Ditchburn
Mrs. K. W. Jeffreys
Mrs. Magee

Mrs. D. L. Pledger
Dr. A. E. Staffurth
Mrs. V. J. Staffurth
H. Street
Miss E. Tillard

WHOLETIME STAFF

County Medical Officer of Health:

D. S. Buchanan, M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.

Assistant County Medical Officers:

(Mainly maternity and child welfare, and school medical services)

Audrey B. Morrison, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Lilian E. Phillips, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (Part-time)

Assistant County Medical Officers:

(Child welfare, school medical services) and Medical Officers of Health to various districts.

Mary M. Markham, M.B., Ch.B., D.T.M., D.P.H.

Francis D. F. Steede, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Chest Physicians (part-time)

C. E. P. Downes, M.A.C.P.

C. G. Royce, B.S., M.B., Ch.B.

Senior Dental Officer:

(Schools and maternity and child welfare services)

W. R. S. Robertson, L.D.S., R.C.S.(Eng.)

Inspector under Milk and Dairies Acts and Orders:

Captain W. K. Townson, M.R.C.V.S. (Part-time)

Inspector under the Food and Drugs Act:

A. E. James

Ambulance Officer:

A. Easton

Tuberculosis Care and After-Care Health Visitor:

Miss A. Garner

Orthopaedic Physiotherapist :

Mrs. B. W. Perkins

Domestic Help Organiser :

Mrs. B. A. Meadows

Welfare Officer for the Care of the Unmarried Mother :

Miss E. Walkley

Authorised Officer for Mental Health :

J. B. Ashwell

Deputy Authorised Officer for Mental Health :

H. H. Adams

Home Teacher and Visitor for Mental Defectives :

Miss O. K. Ivimey

Superintendent of Health Visitors and District Nurse/Midwives :

Miss L. E. Roberts

Health Visitors :

Mrs. E. C. Archer

Miss M. S. Balfour

Miss J. Bassford

Miss I. L. Bays

Miss A. Boyd

(Resigned 30th June, 1953)

Miss O. Evans

Miss H. Hardin

Miss M. B. Lovatt

Miss E. Pelbrough

Chief Clerk :

R. E. Killick

*To the Chairman and Members
of the Huntingdonshire County Council.*

Mr. Chairman, My Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report on the health of the County for the year ended the 31st December, 1953.

The outstanding feature of the year was the epidemic of Poliomyelitis. According to the available statistics the number of cases notified was the highest ever recorded in a single year in the County. The disease remained prevalent over a lengthy period—the first case being notified in January while the last occurred in November.

The severity of the epidemic is evident from the case mortality which was approximately ten per cent while the death rate amounted to 0.03 per thousand of the population, three times the corresponding figure for England and Wales.

The Death Rate for the County showed a slight decrease, as did the corresponding figure for England and Wales. It will be noted that although the deaths from tuberculosis reached the lowest figure ever recorded in this County, the notifications of new cases continued at a relatively high level. It is satisfactory to report the decrease in the number of deaths of infants under one year and also the decline in the number of deaths resulting from accidents.

The Birth Rate of 17.18 per thousand of the population showed an increase on the previous year's rate. A similar increase is shown in the rate for England and Wales but not to the same extent.

The apparent disappearance of Diphtheria from the County—there have been no cases of this disease during the past six years—is very gratifying but it is to be hoped that this will not lead parents to think that there is no longer any need to have their children immunised.

In conclusion I once again take this opportunity to acknowledge the support and encouragement given to me by the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee and to express my thanks to the Voluntary Workers in the Infant Welfare Centres and to place on record my appreciation of the high standard of work undertaken by the professional and lay members of my staff.

I have the honour to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

D. S. BUCHANAN,

County Medical Officer of Health.

October, 1954.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (acres)	233,985
Population (Registrar-General's estimate mid-1953) ..	70,680

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

	Males	Females	Total
BIRTHS—			
Live Births—			
Legitimate	608	545	1,153
Illegitimate	34	27	61
Total Births	642	572	1,214
Birth rate per 1,000 population			17.18
Still Births			32
Still Birth rate per 1,000 total births			25.68
DEATHS—			
Deaths from all causes			763
Death rate (Crude) in—			
Urban Districts			12.69
Rural Districts			9.32
County of Huntingdon			10.8
England and Wales			11.4
Maternal Deaths—			
From pregnancy, childbirth, abortion			Nil
Infant Deaths—			
Death rate of infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 births—			
Legitimate			23.42
Illegitimate			Nil
Total death rate			22.24

Population

The statistics issued by the Registrar General for 1953 comprise figures relating to resident civilians and members of the armed forces stationed in the area. The population figures thus obtained are referred to as "home population." The estimated home population of the County Districts at the 30th June, 1953, were as follows :—

Administrative County	70,680
Urban Districts	30,980
Huntingdon M.B.	5,397
Godmanchester M.B.	2,413
St. Ives M.B.	3,272
St. Neots	5,073
Ramsey	5,684
Old Fletton	9,141
Rural Districts	39,700
Huntingdon	9,647
St. Ives	13,530
St. Neots	7,713
Norman Cross	8,810

The mid-1953 population of the County as estimated by the Registrar General at 70,680 shows a net increase of 2,080 as compared with the estimated population in the previous year, 1952.

The natural increase in the population, that is to say the excess of live births over deaths, was 451. As pointed out in my report for 1952, this natural increase in recent years has been fairly constant, as will be seen from the following table :—

1953 ...	451
1952 ...	360
1951 ...	359
1950 ...	362
1949 ...	373

Births

Live births numbered 1,214, of which 642 were male and 572 female, which gives a Live Birth Rate of 17.18 per 1,000 of the estimated population. This shows an increase on the rate for 1952 which was 16.2 and compares favourably with the rate of 15.5 for England and Wales.

During 1953 there were 32 Still Births registered, giving a Still Birth Rate of 25.68 as compared with a rate of 24.5 in 1952.

Illegitimate live births numbered 61, of which 34 were male and 27 female, which constitutes 5 per cent. of the total number of live births.

Deaths

During 1953 a total of 763 deaths were registered giving a Crude Death Rate of 10.8 as compared with 10.98 in 1952. The corresponding figure for England and Wales was 11.4.

The table on pages 10 and 11 shows the age distribution of the deaths registered and also the causes of the deaths allocated to the various urban and rural districts.

Of the total number of deaths some 237 were due to disease of the heart; the majority of these occurring in persons 65 years and upwards.

There were 118 deaths attributable to some form of malignant neoplasm with an additional 5 due to leukaemia or aleukæmia, the figures being almost identical with those for the previous year.

The total number of deaths which occurred as a result of tuberculosis was 7, of which 6 were due to pulmonary lesions and 1 to non-pulmonary infection. This is the smallest number of deaths arising from tuberculosis that has ever been recorded for this County.

Twenty-three deaths occurred as a result of accidents of various types including 8 which were associated with motor vehicles. These deaths amount to 3.01 per cent. of all deaths registered and show a decrease on the comparative figures of 4.5 per cent. and 3.8 per cent. for 1952 and 1951 respectively.

The Infant Mortality Rate of 22.24 per 1,000 live births shows a decrease compared with the corresponding rate of 28.75 for the previous year and compares very favourably with the Infant Mortality Rate of 26.8 for England and Wales.

The Maternal Mortality Rate was Nil, again no deaths resulting from pregnancy, childbirth or abortion being recorded during the year.

The following table sets out the birth rates and death rates of the Urban and Rural Districts and of England and Wales for the past five years :—

TABLE 1

	BIRTH RATE					DEATH RATE				
	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
Urban Districts ...	16.3	15.4	16.7	15.3	17.0	12.2	11.5	12.0	11.8	12.7
Rural Districts ...	19.1	17.4	16.8	17.0	17.3	11.9	11.2	11.3	10.3	9.3
County of Huntingdon	17.8	16.6	16.8	16.2	17.2	12.0	11.3	11.6	11.0	10.8
England and Wales	16.7	15.8	15.5	15.3	15.5	11.7	11.6	12.5	11.3	11.4

TABLE

TABLE SHOWING DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES AND IN

CAUSE OF DEATH	CAUSE OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE							
	Under 1 year	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and under 75	75 and upwards
1. Tuberculosis, Respiratory ...	—	—	—	—	2	3	1	—
2. Tuberculosis, Other ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic Disease ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
4. Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal Infections ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis ...	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
8. Measles ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
9. Other Infective & Parasitic Diseases ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
10. Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach ...	—	—	—	—	1	3	10	12
11. Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus ...	—	—	—	—	1	11	3	—
12. Malignant Neoplasm, Breast ...	—	—	—	—	—	8	2	2
13. Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus ...	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	1
14. Other Malignant & Lymphatic Neoplasms ...	—	—	1	—	4	15	16	25
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia ...	—	2	—	—	1	2	—	1
16. Diabetes ...	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	2
17. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System ...	—	—	—	—	3	9	35	60
18. Coronary Disease, Agina ...	—	—	—	—	—	15	31	22
19. Hypertension with Heart Disease ...	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	10
20. Other Heart Disease ...	—	—	—	—	4	14	37	99
21. Other Circulatory Disease ...	—	—	—	—	1	4	4	22
22. Influenza ...	—	—	—	—	—	3	8	7
23. Pneumonia ...	3	—	—	2	1	8	6	5
24. Bronchitis ...	—	1	—	1	1	7	4	24
25. Other Diseases of Respiratory System ...	—	1	—	—	—	2	2	3
26. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	3
27. Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea ...	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	1
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis ...	—	—	—	—	1	1	3	4
29. Hyperplasia of Prostate ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	6
30. Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
31. Congenital Malformations ...	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
32. Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases ...	17	—	1	3	4	11	9	44
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents ...	—	—	—	2	3	3	—	—
34. All other Accidents ...	—	—	1	2	2	4	1	5
35. Suicide ...	—	—	—	—	4	5	1	1
36. Homicide and Operations of War ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ALL CAUSES ...	27	6	5	10	34	138	183	360

DISTRICTS IN THE COUNTY OF HUNTINGDON, 1953

TOTALS	URBAN DISTRICTS						RURAL DISTRICTS			
	Huntingdon Borough	Godmanchester Borough	St. Ives Borough	St. Neots U.D.	Ramsey U.D.	Old Fletton U.D.	Huntingdon R.D.	St. Ives R.D.	St. Neots R.D.	Norman Cross R.D.
6	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	2
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
26	3	3	—	—	4	1	5	7	1	—
15	3	2	2	—	1	1	1	2	2	1
12	2	1	1	—	2	—	1	2	2	1
4	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	2	2
61	9	3	3	2	4	8	5	1	—	—
6	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	15	10	2
5	2	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	1	1
107	26	4	6	3	7	16	9	14	9	13
68	9	4	4	4	3	8	10	15	3	8
15	5	2	—	2	2	1	—	3	—	—
154	33	2	8	8	10	23	20	20	12	18
31	6	1	3	1	5	3	3	5	2	2
18	4	—	—	5	—	4	2	3	—	—
25	4	3	1	—	5	1	1	5	3	2
38	8	—	1	1	—	5	4	5	4	10
8	1	—	—	2	1	—	1	1	1	1
7	2	—	—	—	1	—	1	2	1	—
4	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
9	2	—	—	1	—	1	—	3	1	1
9	1	—	—	1	—	2	1	1	3	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	1	—
89	13	1	2	8	4	8	14	15	13	11
8	—	—	—	—	2	1	1	1	1	2
15	1	2	—	1	1	2	1	3	3	1
11	1	1	1	—	1	2	—	1	3	1
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
763	144	29	34	41	54	91	83	127	79	81

TABLE 3

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1953
Urban and Rural Districts

District	Area in acres	Persons per acre	Population	Live Births				Deaths				Deaths under 1 year of age		Death Rate from Respiratory Tuberculosis per 1,000 population	Death Rate from all tubercular diseases per 1,000 population
				No.	Net Rate	Standardising Factor	Standardised Birth Rate	No.	Net Rate	Standardising Factor	Standardised Death Rate	No.	Rate per 1,000 reg'd births		
URBAN:															
Huntingdon Boro'	2151	2.5	5397	79	14.6	0.95	13.9	144	26.7	0.87	23.2	2	25.3	0.19	0.19
Godmanchester Boro'	4907	0.5	2413	40	16.6	0.98	16.2	29	12.0	0.89	10.7	—	—	—	—
St. Ives Borough ...	2326	1.4	3272	76	23.2	1.03	23.9	34	10.4	0.82	8.5	4	52.6	—	—
St. Neots Urban ...	1390	3.6	5073	81	16.0	1.05	16.8	41	8.1	0.86	7.0	—	—	—	—
Ramsey Urban ...	15980	0.4	5684	117	20.6	1.05	21.6	54	9.5	0.97	9.2	3	25.6	—	—
Old Fletton Urban	3029	3.0	9141	133	14.5	1.06	15.4	91	10.0	1.07	10.7	4	30.1	0.22	0.22
Totals for Urban Dist's	29783	1.0	30980	526	17.0	1.02	17.3	393	12.7	0.93	11.8	13	24.7	0.1	0.1
RURAL:															
Huntingdon ...	69937	0.1	9647	199	20.6	1.21	25.0	83	8.6	1.01	8.7	7	35.2	0.1	0.1
St. Ives ...	45911	0.3	13530	218	16.1	1.22	19.7	127	9.4	1.02	9.6	4	18.3	—	—
St. Neots ...	52559	0.1	7713	132	17.1	1.17	20.0	79	10.2	0.80	8.2	2	15.2	0.13	0.13
Norman Cross ...	35795	0.2	8810	139	15.8	0.99	15.6	81	9.2	1.05	9.7	1	7.2	0.23	0.23
Totals for Rural Dist's	204202	0.2	39700	688	17.3	1.15	19.9	370	9.3	0.97	9.0	14	20.3	0.08	0.1
Administrative County	233985	0.3	70680	1214	17.2	1.09	18.7	763	10.8	0.95	10.3	27	22.2	0.08	0.1
England and Wales					15.5				11.4				26.8		0.20

CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN (Section 22)

Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Care

The arrangements for ante-natal and post-natal care throughout the County were described in detail in last year's report and these arrangements remain unchanged. In addition to the Relaxation Classes which are held at ante-natal clinics, expectant mothers are instructed in mothercraft. The verbal instruction carried out at these clinics is supplemented by the use of a projector and filmstrips.

The work under Ministry of Health Circular 2866 for the care of the unmarried mother continues to be carried out, as in former years, by a part-time Welfare Worker, who devotes two-fifths of her time to these duties. In those cases where it is considered necessary or advisable facilities exist for the admission of unmarried girls to a Home for Unmarried Mothers and Babies at Bateman Street, Cambridge.

Maternity Outfits issued to domiciliary midwifery cases during the past five years were as follows :—

1953	...	499
1952	...	527
1951	...	499
1950	...	498
1949	...	576

Examinations by general practitioner obstetricians of cases undertaken by midwives is as follows :—

Ante-Natal examinations	...	...	103
Post-Natal examinations	...	...	48

Infant Welfare Centres

The arrangements for this service, as set out in the report for 1952, remain unchanged, namely the 18 County Council Infant Welfare Centres, one Voluntary Centre and 2 Centres at R.A.F. Stations in the County.

Ophthalmic and Orthopaedic examination and treatment continue to be available as in previous years.

The total attendances at the Centres numbered 11,273, which was 2,066 fewer than in 1952.

The number of attendances of children under one was 6,467 while 4,806 attendances were made by children over one year of age.

The fall in the number of attendances was due to the prevalence of Poliomyelitis (referred to on page 41 of this Report).

TABLE 4
Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Clinics

	Number of clinics provided at end of year	Number of sessions held per month		Number of women in attendance		Total number of attendances during the year
		Medical Officers Sessions	Mid- wives Sessions	Number of women who attended during the year	Number of new cases included in last column	
Local Health Authority clinics :						
Ante-natal	5*	8	6	430	313	1,390
Post-natal	—	—	—	55	55	56
Clinics provided by Voluntary Organisations :						
Ante-natal	2	1	3	78	61	253
Post-natal	—	—	—	—	—	—

* Post-natal seen at Ante-natal Clinics.

TABLE 5
ATTENDANCES AT INFANT WELFARE CENTRES

	<i>First Attendances</i>		<i>Subsequent Attendances</i>			<i>Total Attendances</i>
	0 — 1 year	1 — 5 years	0 — 1 year	1 — 2 years	2 — 5 years	
<i>County Centres</i>						
Alconbury ...	8	—	43	32	48	131
Brampton ...	20	8	87	35	56	206
Buckden ...	18	3	123	69	82	295
Elton ...	19	10	75	38	73	215
Fenstanton ...	12	1	72	64	87	236
Great Gransden	8	10	41	25	60	144
Great Staughton	17	7	100	63	84	271
Huntingdon ...	119	16	1119	376	141	1771
Kimbolton ...	25	1	94	73	156	349
Ramsey ...	56	5	178	103	36	378
St. Ives ...	75	18	466	117	229	905
St. Neots ...	89	16	1008	269	441	1823
Sawtry ...	7	—	91	41	58	197
Somersham ...	20	2	100	70	69	261
Spaldwick ...	5	2	38	49	41	135
Warboys ...	21	13	142	108	93	377
Woodwalton ...	2	—	4	14	23	43
Yaxley ...	32	5	145	81	114	377
<i>Voluntary Centres</i>						
Old Fletton ...	95	13	1221	477	357	2163
Wyton Aerodrome	54	25	306	131	148	664
Upwood Aerodrome	43	3	269	2	15	332
<i>Total Number of Attendances at all Centres</i>	745	158	5722	2237	2411	11273

Premature Infants

Notification of all babies having a birth weight of $5\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. or under is made to this Department, and arrangements for the care of these infants continued as in previous years.

During the year 1953 notifications were as follows :—

Number of Premature Live Births notified (as adjusted by transferred notifications)

- | | | | | | | | |
|-----|--------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| (a) | In hospital | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 36 |
| (b) | At home | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 21 |
| (c) | In private nursing homes | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |

Total ... 58

Number of Premature Still-Births notified (as adjusted by
transferred notifications)

(a)	In hospital	...	...	...	...	...	9
(b)	At home	...	...	...	...	...	2
(c)	In private nursing homes	...	...	...	...	...	2
							<hr/>
Total							13
							<hr/>

Special cots, hot water bottles, feeding bottles, oxygen apparatus, nursing gowns and masks are located at convenient points within the County so as to be immediately available.

TABLE 6

Weight at Birth	PREMATURE LIVE BIRTHS												PREMATURE STILL-BIRTHS					
	Born in Hospital			Born at home and nursed entirely at home			Born at home transferred to hospital on or before 28th day			Born in nursing home and nursed entirely there			Born in nursing home and transferred to hospital on or before 28th day			Born in hospital	Born at home	Born in nursing home
	Total	Died within 24 hrs. of birth	Survived 28 days	Total	Died within 24 hrs. of birth	Survived 28 days	Total	Died within 24 hrs. of birth	Survived 28 days	Total	Died within 24 hrs. of birth	Survived 28 days	Total	Died within 24 hrs. of birth	Survived 28 days			
3 lb. 4 oz. or less	5	2	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	
Over 3 lb. 4 oz. up to and including 4 lb. 6 oz. ...	7	1	5	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	2	
Over 4 lb. 6 oz. up to and including 4 lb. 15 oz. ...	10	—	9	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	1	—	
Over 4 lb. 15 oz. up to and including 5 lb. 8 oz.	14	—	14	15	—	15	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	
TOTALS ...	36	3	29	18	—	17	3	—	2	1	—	1	—	—	9	2	2	

Dental Care

The Dental Officer reports as follows :—

“Facilities for dental treatment for Expectant and Nursing Mothers and Pre-School Children have continued under the County scheme.

“All mothers accepting have been given complete treatment, including the fitting of dentures when necessary. A number of children under five referred from the Infant Welfare Centres and Health Visitors have also received treatment.

“The clinics at Huntingdon, Old Fletton, Ramsey, St. Neots and St. Ives are excellent centres for this work as appointments are always arranged to fit in with the local bus service.”

TABLE 7
(a) Numbers provided with dental care :

	Examined	Needing Treatment	Treated	Made Dentally fit
Expectant and Nursing Mothers ...	21	21	21	16
Children under five ...	14	14	14	14

TABLE 8
(b) Forms of dental treatment provided :

	Extractions	Anaesthetics		Fillings	Scalings or Scaling & gum treatment	Silver Nitrate treatment	Dressings includ'g Imps, Bites, Try-ins, etc.	Radio-graphs		Dentures provided	
		Local	General					Complete	Partial		
Expectant and Nursing Mothers ...	63	25	2	2	3	—	32	1	—	3	—
Children under five ...	12	9	—	4	—	—	7	—	—	—	—

TABLE 9

Maternity Beds

Year	Total No. of Births	Births in Maternity Homes or Hospitals	Percentage of Institutional Births
1947	1,271	299	23
1948	1,148	347	30
1949	1,144	532	47
1950	1,121	652	58
1951	1,170	728	62
1952	1,141	678	60
1953	1,246	733	59

The following is a record of admissions to Mother and Baby Homes during the year :—

Diocesan Home, Cambridge	...	...	...	...	11
Other Homes	...	...	...	...	6

Ophthalmic Work

The following table summarises the ophthalmic work undertaken :—

	Huntingdon	Old Fletton
Number of new cases	21	3
Number of old cases	39	2
Number of attendances	60	5
Total number of cases in which spectacles were prescribed	12	2

Orthopaedic

The following tables give particulars of cases dealt with both at the Surgeons Clinics and the Care and After-Care Centres during the year.

TABLE 10
ATTENDANCES AT SURGEONS' CLINICS, 1953

<i>Clinic</i>	<i>No. of Clinics held</i>	<i>New cases seen</i>	<i>Attendances</i>					
			<i>S.E.</i>	<i>P.E.</i>	<i>M. & C.W.</i>	<i>T.B.</i>	<i>P.H.</i>	<i>Total</i>
Huntingdon ...	24	127	28	404	114	18	22	586
Peterborough ...	12	19	8	79	11	4	1	103
TOTAL ...	36	146	36	483	125	22	23	689

TABLE 11
ATTENDANCES AT CARE AND AFTER-CARE CENTRES 1953

<i>Clinic</i>	<i>No. of Clinics held</i>	<i>Attendances</i>					
		<i>S.E.</i>	<i>P.E.</i>	<i>M. & C.W.</i>	<i>T.B.</i>	<i>P.H.</i>	<i>Total</i>
Huntingdon ...	20	32	263	—	—	—	295
Fletton ...	17	26	137	—	—	—	163
Ramsey ...	18	7	135	—	—	—	142
St. Ives ...	23	—	241	—	—	—	241
St. Neots ...	14	—	75	—	—	—	75
TOTAL ...	92	65	851	—	—	—	916
Home Visits by Sister		13	304	51	34	54	456

Note.—S.E.—Secondary Education; P.E.—Primary Education; M. & C.W.—Pre-School cases; T.B.—Tuberculosis cases; P.H.—Other Adults.

MIDWIFERY AND HOME NURSING

(Sections 23 and 25)

Midwifery

The combined Midwifery and Home Nursing Service which operates in this County, and described in detail in last year's report remains unchanged.

Thirty-seven Midwives notified their intention to practise midwifery in the County. Of these 7 were employed in Institutions and 24 were District Nurse-Midwives employed by the County Council.

The following table shows the number of cases attended and the number of visits paid by the District Nurse-Midwives during the year.

TABLE 12

Number of domiciliary deliveries attended by Midwives during the year :—

(i) Doctor not booked	
(a) Doctor present at time of delivery of child	7
(b) Doctor not present at time of delivery of child ...	110
(ii) Doctor booked—	
(a) Doctor present at time of delivery of child (either the booked Doctor or another)	76
(b) Doctor not present at time of delivery of child ...	273
Total ...	466

Number of domiciliary cases in which medical aid was summoned during the year under Section 14 (1) of the Midwives Act, 1951 by a Midwife—

(i) Where the medical practitioner had arranged to provide the patient with maternity medical services under the National Health Service	73
(ii) Others	22
Total ...	95

Number of attendances by Midwives during the year to domiciliary cases :—

(i) Doctor not booked	3,258
(ii) Doctor booked	6,420
Total ...	9,678

Number of cases in which gas and air was administered by midwives in domiciliary practice during the year :—

(i) When doctor was not present at time of delivery of child ...	241
(ii) When doctor was present at time of delivery of child ...	46

Number of cases in which pethidine was administered by midwives in domiciliary practice during the year :

(i) When doctor was not present at time of delivery of child ...	128
(ii) When doctor was present at time of delivery of child ...	49

TABLE 13

Home Nursing.

The following table shows the number of cases attended and the number of visits paid by the District Nurses during the year.

(1)	Medical	Surgical	Infectious Diseases	Tuber- culosis	Maternal Compli- cations	Others	Total	Patients included in (2)-(7) who were 65 or over at the time of the first visit during the year (9)	Children included in (2)-(7) who were under 5 at the time of the first visit during the year (10)	Patients included in (2)-(7) who have had more than 24 visits during the year (11)
Number of cases attended by Home Nurses during the year ...	(2) 886	(3) 477	(4) —	(5) 10	(6) 6	(7) 30	(8) 1409	589	93	183
Number of visits paid by Home Nurses during the year ...	19519	7225	—	597	225	2872	30438	13705	464	13738

HEALTH VISITING (Section 24)

Health visiting throughout the County continued to be carried out by members of the staff holding the combined appointment of Health Visitor-School Nurse.

The following table shows the number of visits paid by Health Visitors :—

TABLE 14

Number of children under 5 years of age visited during year	5,053
Expectant mothers :	
First visits	17
Total visits	23
Children under 1 year of age :	
First visits	1,312
Total visits	7,316
Children age 1 and under 2 years :	
Total visits	4,522
Children age 2 but under 5 years :	
Total visits	7,622
Tuberculosis Households :	
Total visits	14
Other cases :	
Total visits	391
Total number of families or households visited by Health Visitors	4,070

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION (Section 26)

Vaccination

The number of persons vaccinated during 1953 shows a decrease on the number for the previous year.

The following table shows the number of persons vaccinated each year since the arrangements under the National Health Service Act came into effect in 1948 :—

TABLE 15

Year	Number vaccinated	Number re-vaccinated
1953	463	67
1952	547	116
1951	518	192
1950	561	89
1949	378	69
1948 (5th July—31st December)	233	25

The reluctance on the part of individuals to undergo vaccination is causing general concern throughout the country and every effort should be made to ensure that all infants are vaccinated against smallpox during their first year, preferably during their first six months of life.

During the year ended 31st December, 1953, the number of persons vaccinated was as follows :—

TABLE 16

Age at Date of Vaccination	Under 1	1	2-4	5-14	15 or over	Total
Number Vaccinated	404	18	12	14	15	463
Number Re-Vaccinated	1	—	2	5	59	67

Diphtheria Immunisation

The scheme for Diphtheria Immunisation continued unchanged during the year. Immunisation record cards were received from medical practitioners in respect of children immunised by them. Immunisation was also carried out at the Infant Welfare Centres.

The following table shows the number of children immunised against diphtheria each year since the National Health Service Act came into effect in 1948 :—

TABLE 17

Year	Number of children who completed a full course of Primary Immunisation.			Total number of children who received a secondary or reinforcing injection.
	Children under 5 years	Children 5—14 years	Total	
1953	407	96	503	491
1952	724	340	1064	1349
1951	767	202	969	2045
1950	718	222	940	647
1949	875	140	1015	1576
1948 (5th July —31st Dec.)	473	143	616	488

The reduction in the number of children immunised during the year is to a large extent accounted for by the fact that immunisation was suspended in certain parts of the County during the time that poliomyelitis was prevalent.

During the year the number of children immunised was as follows :—

TABLE 18

Age at Date of Immunisation	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5—9	10—14	Total
Primary Immunisation	174	195	20	11	7	85	11	503
Secondary or Reinforcing Injection	—	—	—	2	22	301	166	491

The following table gives in detail the Diphtheria Immunisation state within the County of children up to the age of 15 years.

TABLE 19

Age at 31/12/53 i.e. Born in Year	Under 1 1953	1-4 1952-1949	5-9 1948-1944	10-14 1943-1939	Under 15 Total
Last complete course of injections (whether primary or booster)					
A. 1949-1953	17	2,425	3,526	2,755	8,723
B. 1948 or earlier	—	—	1,534	2,078	3,612

As will be seen from the above table a total of 12,335 children under 15 years in the County have been immunised which is equivalent to 76.24 per cent of the population under 15 years of age.

AMBULANCE (Section 20)

The following information relates to the working of the Ambulance Service during the year 1953.

TABLE 20

Service	Vehicles	Journeys	Patients	Miles
DIRECTLY PROVIDED—				
Ambulances :				
Huntingdon	5	2070	6640 (731)	92130
St. Neots	1	80	78 (61)	2527
Sitting Cars	3	1487	5957 (108)	91924
AGENCY SERVICES—				
Soke of Peterborough—				
Ambulances	3	1040	2092 (161)	33341
Sitting Cars	3			
SUPPLEMENTARY—				
Hospital Car Service	—	84	315 (—)	5073
Totals	15	4761	15082 (1061)	254995
(The figures in parenthesis indicate emergency calls)				

No major alteration was made in the organisation of the Ambulance Service during the year under review.

In the course of the year the Ambulance vehicles made 178 fewer journeys and carried 437 fewer patients than in the previous year. The total mileage travelled was 254,995, some 6,127 miles less than in 1952. The number of miles each patient was carried averaged slightly under 15 miles as compared with slightly over 15 miles in 1952, but the average length of each journey showed a slight increase from 46 miles in 1952 to 47 miles in the present year.

The greater regard for economy in the use of this Service has been evident in the calls received from both doctors and Hospital Transport Officers. This has unquestionably had the effect of reducing the demands on the Service but it seems highly probable that the reduction in the amount of work undertaken by the Ambulance Service during the year will in the course of time prove to be little more than part of a yearly fluctuation similar in character to the seasonal variations which are so evident in the statistics.

The present establishment in both personnel and vehicles in the Huntingdon Depot is such that the service is frequently hard pressed to meet the demands made upon it.

PREVENTION OF ILLNESS, CARE AND AFTER-CARE (Section 28)

Tuberculosis

Contact Examination: Every effort is made for complete examination of the occupants of the affected household as well as members of the family and other close contacts residing locally. The arrangements for appointments are made normally by the health visitor.

Where possible and where it is considered to be justified, a Mass Miniature Radiography Survey of large contact groups is effected.

Employment and Rehabilitation: Primary aim is to restore the patient to his normal occupation prior to the onset of illness. Commonly part-time work is initiated as a preliminary to full-time employment. Where such measures are impracticable efforts are made to encourage occupational retraining under the Ministry of Labour Rehabilitation Scheme or at such a centre as Papworth.

Prevention of spread of infection: Patients who are infective or dubiously infective are discouraged from working in the handling or serving of foodstuffs for public consumption.

All patients are instructed in the personal hygienic measures necessary to minimise spread of infection and periodic supervision is given from this point of view. This service is performed to a large extent by the health visitor on the occasion of the periodic home visits.

B.C.G. Vaccination: During the year the Minister of Health in Circular 22/53 indicated that he was prepared to approve the extension of B.C.G. vaccination to school children during their penultimate year at school. The Health Committee gave careful consideration to the matter, but decided to await the British Medical Research Council's report on the trials which are now being undertaken.

The following table sets out the number of notifications received during the year, the number on the register at the end of the year and also gives details of the work carried out during the year.

TABLE 21

Notifications received during 1953

Respiratory cases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	44
Other cases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6

Number on Register on 31st December, 1953

Respiratory				Other Forms			
Male	Female	Children	Total	Male	Female	Children	Total
164	82	14	260	16	28	29	73

Home Visits

The Tuberculosis Health Visitor paid 957 Home Visits to tuberculosis cases during the year.

No. of New Contacts examined

				Huntingdon		Peterborough	
				M	F	M	F
Adults	...	...	...	46	84	19	26
Children	...	...	...	50	60	12	12
Totals				96	144	31	38

No. of Skin Tests performed and results

No. Positive	24	23	3	3
No. Negative	...	...	...	28	24	17	19

B.C.G. Vaccination

No. of persons vaccinated during the year	4	4	6	6
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	---	---	---	---

Rehabilitation

No. of persons undergoing rehabilitation at end of year	—	4	—	—
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	---	---	---	---

Total No. of Tuberculosis cases at end of year

Working :	Full-time	...	...	...	50	28	50	5
	Part-time	...	...	...	6	14	1	—
Not working :	Fit for work	...	...	...	6	—	—	—
	Unfit for work	...	...	...	34	20	31	17

Mass Miniature Radiography

During the year the Cambridge Mass Miniature Radiography Unit made eight visits to this County and I set out below particulars of the number of persons who were X-rayed at each Centre.

TABLE 22

Centre	Date	No. of persons X-rayed		
		Male	Female	Total
Baker Perkins Ltd., Peterborough. (Hunts. residents)	January, 1953	158	142	300
Hotpoint Electrical Appliance Co. Ltd., Fletton. (Hunts. residents)	January, 1953			
Polish Secondary Modern School, Diddington	9/2/1953	276 Boys + 49 Staff	+ 18 Staff	343
H.M. Borstal Institution, Gaynes Hall, Great Staughton	5-8/2/1953	119 Boys + 7 Staff		126
Kimbolton School	10-11/2/1953	318 Boys + 54 Staff		372
London Brick Co. Ltd., Fletton. (Hunts. residents)	5-18/5/1953	625	26	651
Peter Brotherhoods Ltd., Peterborough. (Hunts. residents)	19-29/5/1953	46	3	49
Polish Grammar School, Diddington	22/10/1953			
Children		5	208	213
Other persons		42	81	123

The following table shows the number of contacts examined in relation to the number of notified cases during the past two years.

TABLE 23

Year	No. of Notifications Received		No. of New Contacts Examined							
			HUNTINGDON				PETERBOROUGH			
	Respiratory	Others	Male		Female		Male		Female	
			Adults	Children	Adults	Children	Adults	Children	Adults	Children
1953	44	6	46	50	84	60	19	12	26	12
1952	65	16	30	53	58	105	35	25	46	32

Loan Depots

Each District Nurse has a loan cupboard the contents of which she may issue at her discretion. In addition to this, the British Red Cross Society have Loan Depots where patients may obtain nursing equipment and apparatus. These Depots are situated at the following places: Huntingdon, Godmanchester, St. Ives, Ramsey, Kimbolton, Water Newton, Elton, Orton Water-ville, Yaxley, Old Fletton, Brampton, Abbots Ripton and St. Neots.

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE

(Section 29)

Arising out of this Authority's decision, made towards the close of 1952, to re-organise the Domestic Help Service, the following steps were taken :—

1. The administration of this Service was transferred from the Women's Voluntary Services Office to the Department of the County Medical Officer of Health in February of the year under review.
2. The employment of full-time Domestic Helps was discontinued and arrangements made for all the work to be undertaken by spare-time Domestic Helps.
3. Administrative arrangements were made to ensure that the allocation of hours of service in each case were reviewed at frequent intervals to ensure that the assistance given was not in excess of what was actually necessary.

Demands on the Service are increasing by reason of the fact that more confinements are taking place in the home and more requests are received in respect of people suffering from chronic illness and of old couples, who while not sick nevertheless are incapable of managing satisfactorily and who would, without the assistance of a domestic help, have to be admitted to an Old People's Home. Domestic assistance for these cases is frequently for prolonged periods.

The number of cases where domestic help was provided during the year was as follows :—

TABLE 24

(a) Maternity (including expectant mothers)	...	...	...	55
(b) Tuberculosis	...	...	...	11
(c) Chronic sick including aged and infirm	...	...	...	165
(d) Others	...	...	...	172

MENTAL HEALTH

(Section 51)

Administration

The Health Committee deal with all matters in connection with the Mental Health Service.

The members of the staff that undertake the work under this Section of the National Health Service Act are as follows :—

County Medical Officer of Health.

Deputy Clerk of the County Council.

Three Assistant Medical Officers.

Duly Authorised Officer.

Deputy Duly Authorised Officer.

Home Teacher and Visitor for Mental Defectives.

Mental Illness

Initial proceedings are carried out by the Duly Authorised Officer assisted by a part-time officer. In the majority of instances cases are referred by the medical practitioner, others are referred by Health Visitors and the Welfare Department. In a few instances the cases are brought to the notice of the Department by the Police or by neighbours. The good relations which exist between the medical practitioner and the Duly Authorised Officers continue to ensure the smooth working of the Service.

Cases referred during 1953 totalled 102 (41 male, 61 female) and were dealt with as follows :—

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Section 20 or 21 Lunacy Act	—	4
Summary Reception Orders	14	21
Voluntary admission	27	36

The problem of providing accommodation for the senile patient still remains. Of the 102 cases dealt with, 26 were aged 65 years or over, 22 of whom were women. Despite close co-operation with the Welfare Department, it was necessary in far too many cases of aged patients to resort to certification under the Lunacy Acts. It is becoming a matter of urgency that some alternative provision should be made to give such patients the care they require other than accommodation in a Mental Hospital.

The following summaries set out the work undertaken during the year.

TABLE 25

Cambridgeshire Mental Hospital

No. of Certified patients admitted	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	35
No. of Certified patients discharged	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
No. of Voluntary patients admitted	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	54
No. of Voluntary patients discharged	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	47
No. of patients admitted under Section 20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3

Three Counties Hospital, Arlesey

No. of Certified patients discharged	1
--------------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

Banstead Hospital, Sutton, Surrey

No. of patients admitted under Section 20	1
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

St. Crispin Hospital, Duston, Northampton

No. of Voluntary patients admitted	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
No. of Voluntary patients discharged	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

Rauceby Hospital, Sleaford, Lincs.

No. of Voluntary patients admitted	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
No. of Voluntary patients discharged	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6

Patients in Institutions on the 31st December, 1953

					Males	Females	Total
Fulbourn Mental Hospital, Cambridge	...	...			59	81	140
Three Counties Hospital, Arlesey	...	...	...		8	6	14
Graylingwell Hospital, Chichester	...	...	...		—	1	1
Derby County Hospital, Mickleover	...	...	...		—	1	1
St. Andrew's Hospital, Billericay	...	...	...		—	1	1
Shenley Hospital, St. Albans	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
Park Prewett Hospital, Basingstoke	...	...	...		—	1	1
Napsbury Hospital, St. Albans	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
Springfield Hospital, London	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
Cane Hill Hospital, Surrey	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
Rauceby Hospital, Sleaford	...	...	...	...	1	2	3
					70	95	165

Mental Deficiency

The arrangements for the ascertainment of mentally defective children continue as before. Medical examinations are carried out by School Medical Officers and cases are reported to the Local Health Authority by the Local Education Authority under Section 57 of the Education Act. In addition, cases are occasionally brought to the notice of the Local Health Authority through other agencies.

The total number of persons ascertained as mental defectives in 1953 was 10 (4 male and 6 female). Of this number 9 (4 male and 5 female) were reported under Section 57 of the Education Act, 1944.

Four patients were admitted to Certified Institutions by Order, but this was insufficient to produce any improvement in the number of those awaiting vacancies in Institutions and the need for more places remains urgent.

At the end of the year the number awaiting vacancies in Certified Institutions was 20 (14 male and 6 female) of which 7 male and 2 female were classed as urgent.

The Home Teacher continued the training and instruction of patients in their homes. At the end of the year there were 8 male and 7 female defectives receiving this training.

Supervision of cases on Licence from Institutions and cases under Statutory Supervision was carried out by the Mental Health Workers and the following are the number of visits paid to these patients :—

Cases on Licence	...	...	...	...	...	...	73
Cases under Statutory Supervision	...	...	...	...	...	...	433
Cases for training at home	...	...	...	...	...	...	526

Owing to the widespread distribution throughout the County of the defectives capable of benefiting from training, it has not proved practicable to establish an occupation centre. However, the arrangements whereby defectives under Guardianship of nominees of the Guardianship Society attend their local occupation centre remains unchanged.

TABLE 26

						During 1953			
						Under age 16		Aged 16 and over	
						M.	F.	M.	F.
1. <i>Particulars of cases reported during 1953.</i>									
(a) Cases at 31st December ascertained to be defectives "subject to be dealt with".									
Action taken on reports by—									
(i) Local Education Authorities on children:									
(1) While at school or liable to attend school						3	2	—	—
(2) On leaving special schools						—	—	—	1
(3) On leaving ordinary schools						1	2	—	—
(ii) Police or by Courts						—	—	—	—
(iii) Other sources						—	—	—	1
(b) Cases reported but not regarded at 31st December as defectives "subject to be dealt with" on any ground						—	—	—	—
(c) Cases reported but not confirmed as defectives by 31st December and thus excluded from (a) or (b)						—	—	—	—
Total number of cases reported during the year						4	4	—	2

TABLE 27

						During 1953				Total cases on Authority's Reg. as at 1.1.1954			
						Under age 16		Aged 16 and over		Under age 16		Aged 16 and over	
						M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
2. <i>Disposal of cases.</i>													
(a) Of the cases ascertained to be defectives "subject to be dealt with" number—													
(i) Placed under Statutory Supervision						4	4	—	1	19	10	33	24
(ii) Placed under Guardianship						—	—	—	—	—	—	2	6
(iii) Taken to "Places of Safety"						—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(iv) Admitted to Institutions						—	—	—	1	8	2	26	26
(b) Of the cases not ascertained to be defectives "subject to be dealt with" number—													
(i) Placed under Voluntary Supervision						—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1
(ii) Action unnecessary						—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total of Item 2 ...						4	4	—	2	27	12	63	57

TABLE 28

					Total cases on Authority's Reg. as at 1.1.1954			
					Under age 16		Aged 16 and over	
					M.	F.	M.	F.
3. <i>Classification of defectives in the Community on 1.1.54:</i>								
(a) Cases included in item 2 (a) (i) to (iii) above in need of institutional care—								
(1) In urgent need of institutional care—								
(i) "Cot and Chair" cases					2	—	—	—
(ii) Ambulant low grade cases					2	2	1	—
(iii) Medium grade cases					1	—	1	—
(iv) High grade cases					—	—	—	—
(2) Not in urgent need of institutional care—								
(i) "Cot and Chair" cases					1	—	—	—
(ii) Ambulant low grade cases					1	—	1	—
(iii) Medium grade cases					4	1	—	3
(iv) High grade cases					—	—	—	—
Total of Item 3 (a)					11	3	3	3
(b) Of the cases included in items 2 (a) (i) and 2 (b)(i) above, number considered suitable for—								
(i) Occupation centre					2	3	14	3
(ii) Industrial centre					1	1	5	4
(iii) Home training					5	2	1	4
Total of Item 3 (b)					8	6	20	11
(c) Of the cases included in item 3 (b) number receiving training on 1.1.54—								
(i) In occupation centre					—	—	—	2
(ii) In industrial centre					—	—	—	—
(iii) At home					5	2	1	4
Total of Item 3 (c)					5	2	1	6
4. Number of Mental Defectives who were in Institutions, under Community Care (including Voluntary Supervision) or in "Places of Safety" on 1st January, 1953, who have ceased to be under any of these forms of care during 1953.								
					Males	Females	Total	
(a) Ceased to be under care					—	—	—	
(b) Died, removed from area, or lost sight of					4	3	7	
Total					4	3	7	
5. Of the total number of mental defectives under Supervision or Guardianship or no longer under care.								
(a) Number who have given birth to children while unmarried during 1953								Nil
(b) Number who have married during 1953					Males	Females		
					Nil	Nil		

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS 1948 AND 1951

Incidence of Blindness

There were 162 registered blind persons (78 male and 84 female) in the County on the 31st December, 1953, compared with 156 at the end of the previous year. During 1953 the number of cases certified blind on Form B.D.8 was 35 (13 male and 22 female). Three Blind persons (2 male and 1 female) were transferred into this County from other areas.

The number of deaths of blind persons recorded during the year was 28 (13 male and 15 female). One male and 2 female blind persons left this County and one female was de-certified during the year.

The following table shows the ages of blind persons on the register at the 31st December, 1953.

TABLE 29

0—	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—10	11—15	16—20	21—30	31—39	40—49	50—59	60—64	65—69	70 and over	Age not known	Total
1 (—)	1 (—)	1 (—)	1 (—)	1 (—)	1 (1)	2 (2)	2 (2)	1 (3)	7 (6)	3 (4)	15 (18)	12 (12)	27 (23)	92 (85)	— —	162 (156)

A register of all cases in the County certified to be partially-sighted is also kept and the number on this register at the end of the year was 27 (13 male and 14 female), compared with 19 (8 male and 11 female) at the end of 1952.

The age distribution of the partially-sighted persons is shown in the following table.

TABLE 30

0—1	2—4	5—15	16—20	21—49	50—64	65 & over	Total
—	—	3	1	7	2	14	27

At the end of the year 26 cases were under observation in order to maintain contact if they should subsequently become eligible for certification as partially-sighted or as blind persons.

During 1953 none of these cases were certified as partially-sighted or as blind. One case died during the year.

The following table shows the follow-up of Registered Blind and Partially Sighted Persons.

TABLE 31

(i) Number of cases registered during the year in respect of which para 7 (c) of Form B.D. 8 recommends :—	CAUSE OF DISABILITY							
	<i>Cataract</i>		<i>Glaucoma</i>		<i>Retrolental Fibroplasia</i>		<i>Others</i>	
	Blind	P/S	Blind	P/S	Blind	P/S	Blind	P/S
(a) No Treatment ...	20*	1	1	—	—	—	7	1
(b) Treatment (medical surgical or optical)	5	2	—	—	—	—	2	5
(ii) Number of cases at (i) (b) above which on follow-up action have received treatment ...	3	1	—	—	—	—	2	3

* One of these cases also had glaucoma.

TABLE 32

Ophthalmia neonatorum

- (i) Total number of cases notified during the year ... 2
- (ii) Number of cases in which :—
- (a) Vision lost —
- (b) Vision impaired —
- (c) Treatment continuing at end of year —

TABLE 33

Employment of Blind Persons

- (i) Homeworkers
 - 1 Basket Maker.
 - 1 Piano Tuner and Musician.
- (ii) Workshop Employees
 - 2 Basket Makers at Norwich Institution for the Blind.
- (iii) Other Employment
 - 1 Cafe Proprietor
 - 1 Grocer
 - 1 Physiotherapist
 - 1 Labourer
 - 1 Ice Cream Manufacturer and Vendor
 - 1 Storekeeper

At the end of the year 10 Blind persons were usefully employed and 2 were receiving training.

Home Teaching Service

Total number of visits made to Blind and Partially Sighted Persons	... ..	497
Number of other visits made in connection with blind welfare	... ..	35
Number of lessons given	... ..	13

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

1,335 confirmed cases of communicable diseases were notified to District Medical Officers of Health during 1953. The corresponding number for 1952 was 1,071.

Detailed information has been extracted from the quarterly returns submitted by the District Medical Officers of Health and are set out in Table 36.

The increase in the number of cases of infectious diseases as compared with the previous year was largely due to the increased incidence of Measles. There was also a slight increase in the number of cases of Scarlet Fever and Pneumonia.

Diphtheria. This disease was for the sixth consecutive year conspicuous by its absence. While this is a highly desirable state of affairs, nevertheless the danger does arise in that parents may think that the necessity for immunisation no longer exists. Any false sense of security or complacency must be vigorously opposed and the need for maintaining a high percentage of the population immunised has been stressed by propaganda.

Poliomyelitis. Huntingdonshire in common with other areas throughout the country experienced an outbreak of Poliomyelitis.

The epidemic was mainly centred in the Borough of Huntingdon, the village of Brampton two miles distant where there is a large Air Force establishment, and the Borough of Godmanchester which adjoins Huntingdon. A very few single cases occurred elsewhere in the County.

Twenty-one confirmed cases of Poliomyelitis were notified during the year which far exceeds the greatest total previously recorded in 1949.

The notifications for the County of paralytic cases amounted to 0.16 and the non-paralytic cases to 0.14 per 1,000 population. These figures are considerably higher than the corresponding figures for England and Wales which were paralytic 0.07 and non-paralytic 0.04 per 1,000 population.

The first two cases to be notified, one of school age and the second of pre-school age, proved to be fatal. The death rate for the County of 0.03 per 1,000 population was considerably higher than the figure for England and Wales 0.01 per 1,000 population.

Seasonal incidence. The prevalence of this disease during the first, second and fourth quarters was approximately at the same level, while during the third quarter the peak incidence was recorded—33 per cent of all notified cases occurred during this quarter.

TABLE 34

Quarter ended	No of Cases	Percentage of Total
31st March, 1953	5	23.8
30th June, 1953	5	23.8
30th September, 1953	7	33.3
31st December, 1953	4	19.1
Total	21	100

Age distribution. The greatest number of cases occurred in the 25 years or over age group in which 28.5 per cent of all cases occurred. This was closely followed by the 5—10 age group with 23.8 per cent of the total number of cases, with the 3—5 and 15—25 age groups each contributing 14.3 per cent of the cases.

Sex distribution. Of the cases notified during the year 66.6 per cent were male and 33.3 per cent females. While five cases occurred in males below the age of five years none occurred in females in this age range.

TABLE 35

Age Group	NOTIFICATIONS			Percentage of total cases
	Male	Female	Total	
0 —	—	—	—	—
1 —	2	—	2	9.5
3 —	3	—	3	14.3
5 —	4	1	5	23.8
10 —	1	1	2	9.5
15 —	1	2	3	14.3
25 & over	3	3	6	28.5
TOTALS	14	7	21	100

TABLE 36
INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED IN HUNTINGDON HUNTINGDON COUNTY
for the year ended 31st December, 1953

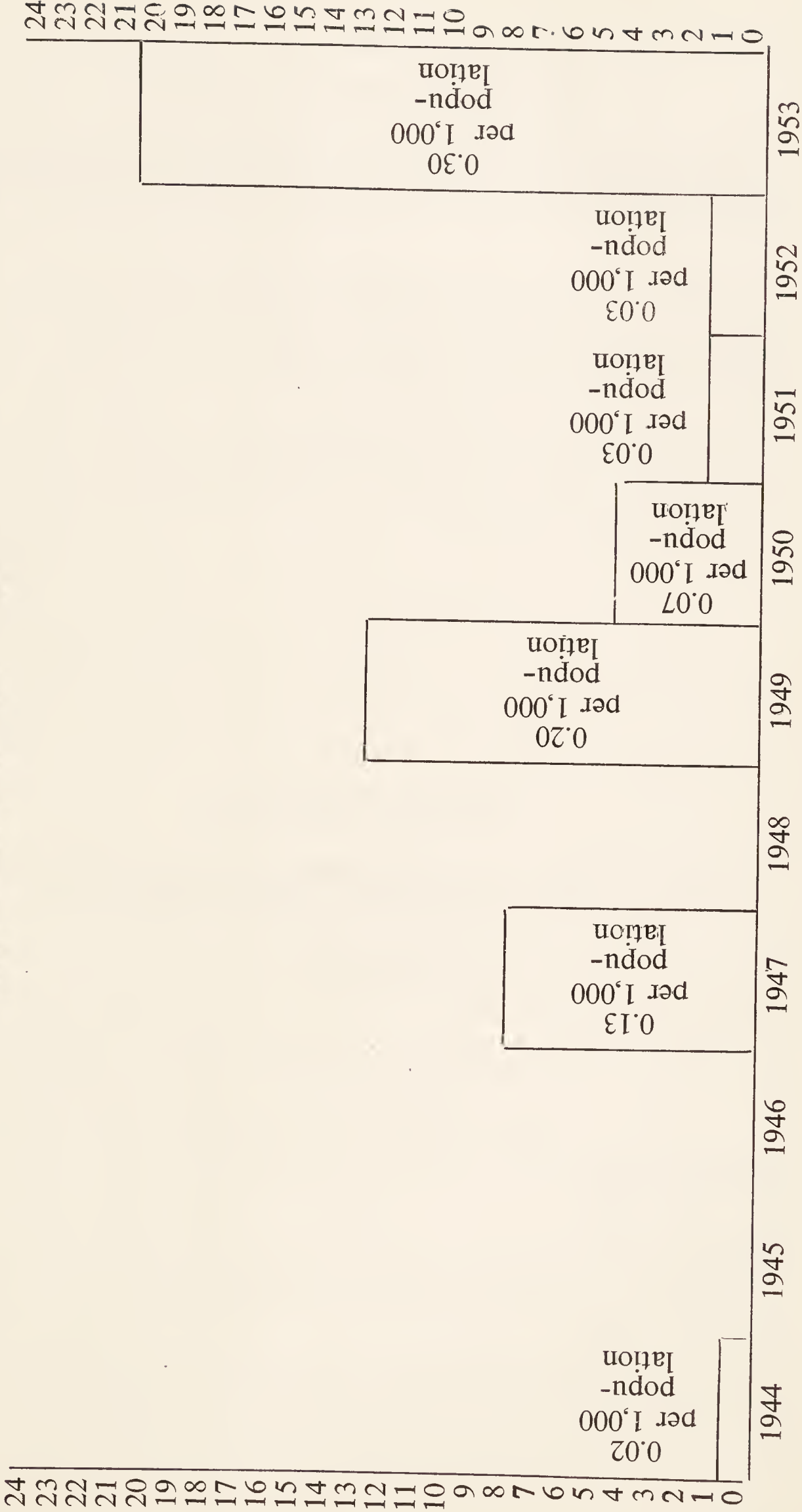
District	Smallpox	Cerebro-Spinal Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Erysipelas	Scarlet Fever	Typhoid and Paratyphoid	Puerperal Pyrexia	Encephalitis Lethargica	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Pneumonia	Chicken Pox	Measles	Acute Polymyelitis	Meningococcal Infection	Food Poisoning	Dysentery	Infective Hepatitis	Malaria	Total
URBAN:																				
Godmancester	—	—	7	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	11	16	101	3	—	—	—	—	—	142
Huntingdon	—	—	10	—	1	10	—	—	—	—	11	1	85	5	—	—	—	1	—	124
Old Fletton	—	—	12	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	5	—	8	1	—	—	—	—	1	30
Ramsey	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	12	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	19
St. Neots	—	—	22	—	2	29	—	—	—	—	5	—	202	2	—	2	—	6	—	270
St. Ives	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	6	—	41	1	—	1	—	—	—	52
RURAL:																				
Huntingdon	—	—	18	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	3	22	177	6	1	—	—	—	—	231
Norman Cross	—	—	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	18	—	—	—	5	—	—	36
St. Ives	—	—	8	—	3	9	—	—	—	—	11	—	245	2	—	1	—	—	—	279
St. Neots	—	—	10	—	2	6	—	4	—	—	4	—	123	1	—	—	2	—	—	152
TOTAL ...	—	—	103	—	10	65	—	4	—	2	69	39	1002	21	1	4	7	7	1	1335

TABLE 37

CASES OF ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS NOTIFIED IN HUNTINGDON COUNTY
DURING THE YEARS 1947-1953

District	1947				1948				1949				1950				1951				1952				1953			
	0-5	5-15	15-25	Over 25	0-5	5-15	15-25	Over 25	0-5	5-15	15-25	Over 25	0-5	5-15	15-25	Over 25	0-5	5-15	15-25	Over 25	0-5	5-15	15-25	Over 25	0-5	5-15	15-25	Over 25
URBAN:																												
Godmanchester ...																												
Huntingdon ...																												
Old Fletton ...																												
Ramsey ...																												
St. Neots ...																												
St. Ives ...																												
RURAL:																												
Huntingdon ...																												
Norman Cross ...																												
St. Ives ...																												
St. Neots ...																												
TOTALS	1	4	-	3	-	-	-	-	1	1	7	5	1	1	1	-	3	1	1	-	2	-	-	-	5	7	4	5

CASES OF ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS NOTIFIED IN HUNTINGDON COUNTY DURING THE YEARS 1944-1953



EPILEPTICS AND SPASTICS

There is no precise information available as to the incidence of or the number of people in the County who suffer from Epilepsy or Cerebral Palsy.

Records of handicapped children of school age give an indication of the number of school children who suffer from a severe degree of epilepsy or from cerebral palsy, but the figures obtainable from this source do not include all the cases of a minor nature.

Every effort is made to have all children who suffer from severe epilepsy admitted to Special Schools, while those suffering from cerebral palsy are referred to the hospital for orthopaedic or physiotherapy treatment.

VENEREAL DISEASES

Abstract relating to Huntingdonshire patients treated at the Venereal Diseases Treatment Centre

TABLE 38

	CAMBRIDGE		PETERBOROUGH		OTHER CENTRES	
	1953	1952	1953	1952	1953	1952
Number of persons dealt with for the first time and found to be suffering from :—						
Syphilis ...	—	1	6	—	—	—
Gonorrhoea ...	2	3	10	9	—	1
Conditions other than Venereal	4	12	34	21	1	1
TOTAL ...	6	16	50	30	1	2

HOUSING

The figures given in the Table below have been obtained from the District Medical Officers of Health and show both the number of new houses erected and also the number of new dwellings provided by adaptation during 1953.

TABLE 39

<i>Sanitary District</i>	<i>New Houses by</i>		<i>By Adaptation</i>	
	<i>Local Authority</i>	<i>Private Enterprise</i>	<i>Local Authority</i>	<i>Private Enterprise</i>
URBAN DISTRICTS :—				
Huntingdon Borough ...	30	10	—	—
St. Ives Borough ...	8	3	—	—
Godmanchester Borough	—	3	—	—
Old Fletton	67	6	—	—
Ramsey	8	13	—	—
St. Neots	—	—	—	—
RURAL DISTRICTS :—				
Huntingdon	23	11	—	—
Norman Cross	34	26	—	—
St. Ives	50	23	—	—
St. Neots	50	13	—	—
TOTALS	270	108	—	—

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

The following is a summary of that part of the work under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, undertaken by the Weights and Measures Department.

During the year 356 samples were procured, 179 of which were submitted to the Public Analyst, and 177 tested in the office laboratory.

Twenty-seven samples, or 7.5 per cent. were found to be not satisfactory. This percentage is practically the same as that for the previous year.

Sampling has, in the main, been confined to those foodstuffs for which a standard is prescribed, or which were pre-packed and bore the required statement as to the ingredients of which they were composed.

During the year standards have been made or revised in respect of saccharin and sweetening tablets, ice cream and jam. That for sausage has been revoked.

No serious case of adulteration is reported and there have been no prosecutions.

Milk

Two hundred and forty-one samples were taken, 22 of which contained less than the required percentages of milk fat or solids-not-fat. The majority of inferior samples were deficient in milk fat. The deficiencies in solids-not-fat were very small and no sample contained added water.

The 22 inferior samples were from 10 suppliers and were in some cases duplications of other samples from the same source.

The producer-retailer is becoming still more rare, and the bulk of the milk consumed in the County is that collected from farmers by wholesale dealers, who pasteurise it and distribute it to retailers. The morning and evening milk from many farms is thus mixed together, which probably accounts for it being consistent in quality so far as the fat and solids-not-fat are concerned.

Such samples as were below the standard were mainly from producers who failed to mix their milk, so that the milk from a cow which produced a poor quality milk went to one purchaser while the good quality milk went to another. It is no offence to sell milk which is below the standard if it can be proved that it was sold as the cow gave it.

Miscellaneous Foodstuffs

One hundred and fifteen samples other than milk were taken, 5 only of which were reported against.

Sausage and Sausage Meat

These foodstuffs were removed from control during the year, and there is now no legal standard for the meat content. In spite of this the meat content of the sausages sold in this County appears to have improved. In no case did it fall below the previous legal standard but in some cases was well above it. A meat content of more than 70 per cent. was found in four samples of Pork Sausages. The standard previously in force required a meat content of 65 per cent. in pork sausages.

Three samples contained a preservative which is permitted if its presence is declared. No such declaration was made and the sellers were cautioned.

Ice Cream

All 12 samples contained the required percentages of fat, sugar and milk solids other than fat.

Wines and Spirits

Thirteen samples were taken, all of which were of the required alcoholic strength. Exception, however, was taken to a sample of British Wine described as "Cherry Wine" but whose fruit basis was exclusively grape juice. This matter is still under investigation.

Soft Drinks

Two samples of a soft drink described as "Whole Orange Drink" contained only 25 per cent. of orange juice.

As, however, the percentage of fruit juice complied with the Soft Drinks Order no action could be taken.

**TABLE GIVING DETAILS OF SAMPLES TAKEN
DURING THE YEAR**

TABLE 40

	Formal		Informal		Total
	Gen.	Not Gen.	Gen.	Not Gen.	
Milk	214	18	5	4	241
Butter	9	—	—	—	9
Ice Cream	12	—	—	—	12
Cream	6	—	1	—	7
Shredded Suet	2	—	—	—	2
Vinegar	6	—	1	—	7
Self-Raising Flour	2	—	1	—	3
Pepper	4	—	—	—	4
Sausage and Sausage Meat ...	14	3	—	—	17
Soya Flour	2	—	—	—	2
Puffed Pastry	1	—	—	—	1
Condensed Milk	3	—	—	—	3
Dressed Crab	1	—	—	—	1
Ground Almonds	1	—	—	—	1
Marzipan and Almond Paste	3	—	2	—	5
Baking Powder	2	—	—	—	2
Wines and Spirits	1	—	12	—	13
Soft Drinks	2	2	1	—	5
Other Articles	15	—	6	—	21
Totals	300	23	29	4	356

The following is a brief summary of the work undertaken under the Milk and Dairies Acts and the Food and Drugs Act by Captain W. K. Townson, M.R.C.V.S.

Samples of milk, Pasteurised and Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised, to the number of 24 have been taken from the Plants and submitted for Phosphatase and Methylene Blue Tests. All samples conformed to the standard required by the Ministry of Food. Inspection of the Plant, including the cleansing of the bottles, has been made and found satisfactory.

During the year 123 samples of Pasteurised Milk and 5 of Tuberculin Tested Milk have been taken from Schools in the County. All Pasteurised samples conformed to the required tests with the exception of 2, in which cases further samples were taken and these complied with the tests. Two Tuberculin Tested samples did not comply.

One hundred and seven inspections have been made to Schools regarding School Meals and the preparation of meals has been found to be clean and satisfactory.

Thirty-two bulk samples of milk have been taken for Biological examination and 22 cases proved to be negative of tubercle bacilli. In the case of 9 samples the Laboratory were unable to apply the test owing to the shortage of guinea pigs. In the remaining case, extensive generalized tuberculosis was present and this was reported to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. The milk producer was also notified. In addition 3 samples of Pasteurised milk were taken for Biological examination and these proved to be negative of tubercle bacilli.

Regular inspection of Restaurants, Cafes, Hotels and Food Shops has been carried out. These are being kept clean and detergents recommended by the Ministry are being used for the washing of utensils.

Inspections have been made in relation to premises which are registered for the storage and sale of Ice-Cream. During the year 5 registrations have been granted. Certain reconstruction of premises has been considered necessary for the housing of the plant. This has been completed by the applicants to the satisfaction of the Council's Officer.

Home-killed Meat, Canned Meats and other Foods, as under-mentioned, have been found on inspection to be unfit for human consumption :—

TABLE 41

1,139 tins Fruit and Jam.	
91 tins Vegetables	} Various kinds and sizes
367 tins Milk and Cream	
206 tins Meat	
18 tins Soup	
44 tins and 8 stones Fish	
68 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs. Cheese and 1 Cheese	
11 boxes Cheese	
80 pkts. Cake Flour	
5 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. Cake and 10 Cakes	
66 Meat Pies	
1,471 lbs. Home-killed Meat	
2,040 lbs. Beef.	
42 lbs. Ewe Mutton	
190 lbs. Pressed Meat	
437 lbs. Sausages.	
6 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. Butter	
4 jars Savouries	
27 jars and 13 lbs. Sundry Foods	

St. Ives Slaughter House

The number of animals killed at St. Ives Abattoir during the year was 6,910, of which 81 whole carcasses (weight 21,636 lbs.) were condemned as unfit for human food. The weight of the parts of carcasses and organs condemned was 13,916 lbs.

The following tables summarise the inspections and condemnations during the year :—

TABLE 42

	Cattle including Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	1047	222	3293	2348
Number inspected	1047	222	3293	2348
(All diseases except tuberculosis):				
Whole carcasses condemned	10	5	12	31
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	253	2	124	305
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	25.1 %	3.1 %	4.1 %	14.3 %
(Tuberculosis only):				
Whole carcasses condemned	17	2	—	4
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	110	—	—	58
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	12.1 %	0.9 %	—	2.2 %

Weights of Condemned Meat

TABLE 43

	Number killed	Condemnations			Total Weight lb.
		Number of Whole carcasses	Weight of whole carcasses lb.	Weight of Parts and Organs lb.	
Cattle	1047	27	15451	9989	25440
Calves	222	7	619	25	644
Sheep and Lambs	3293	12	783	518	1301
Pigs	2348	35	4783	3384	8167
Total	6910	81	21636	13916	35552

Total animals killed : 6,910.

Total meat condemned : 15 tons 17 cwts. 3 qrts.

5/1/55

